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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,461	06/26/2003	Kevin O. Henderson	AVERP3302USB	3494

7590

01/04/2006

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EXAMINER

TARAZANO, DONALD LAWRENCE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1773

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/606,461	HENDERSON, KEVIN O.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	D. Lawrence Tarazano	1773	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 39, 40, 43-45, 47 and 63-86 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 43, 44, 47 and 75-86 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 39, 40, 45 and 63-73 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date (| 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/05/2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 39, 40, 45 and 63-73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuji et al. (5,026,778).

4. The films contain a blend of polypropylene copolymer (PP-2) having a melt flow index of 7 g/10 minutes and ethylene-butene (EB-1) or ethylene propylene (EB-2) rubber (TAFMER). These films contain nucleating agents e.g. Example 11 and are used to produced oriented films. These blends may be used in multilayer structures.

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5. While the applicants claim three layer structures there is nothing that differentiates the components of the three layers and the core could comprise the same components as the surface layers. It appears on its face that a three-layer structure made from the polymers in question would meet the claims.

6. These structures are used in the production of container. The addition of an adhesive layer to either bond the films to another structure or to close the container would be well within the ordinary skill in the art.

7. The applicants have claims directed to metallocene-catalyzed polymers, but the prior art is silent regarding the use of metallocene-catalyzed materials. The TAFMER material, for example the ethylene-butene copolymer, a low-density plastomer. This material is not unlike a metallocene-catalyzed polyethylene, and it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have used a new generation metallocene catalyzed polyethylene in place of them. This would also be true for the polypropylene materials barring any showing of unexpected results.

8. While the applicant now specify a degree of orientation of 2-9 to 1, this is well within the routine skill in the art and in no way out of the normal range for the orientation of films.

9. Claims 39, 40, 45 and 63-73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kozimor et al. (6,231,936).

10. Kozimor et al. teach blends of polypropylene copolymer, metallocene catalyzed polyethylene and nucleating agents. These blends are used to produce uniaxially oriented films. (column 4, lines 40-67), (column 9, lines 20-21).

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11. These materials can be used in the production of multilayer article and single layer articles, in which the polymers may be uniaxially oriented.

12. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have varied the thickness of the structures produced depending on the end use of the film.

13. While the applicants claim three layer structures there is nothing that differentiates the components of the three layers and the core could comprise the same components as the surface layers. It appears on its face that a three-layer structure made from the polymers in question would meet the claims. Minor variations in the components would have been obvious based on the use of the film e.g. the use of slip agents, colorants, etc...

14. Since these structures are used for various applications, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have used adhesives where necessary.

15. While the applicant now specify a degree of orientation of 2-9 to 1, this is well within the routine skill in the art and in no way out of the normal range for the orientation of films.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments filed 10/05/2005 have been fully considered but they are not fully persuasive.

17. The applicants argue that the prior art does not teach the claimed multilayer structure. The examiner notes that the applicants now claim the structure in a way that the layers need be different. This overcomes the previous art rejections with respect to claims 43,44,47 and 75-86.

18. The applicants also argue that the prior art does not teach films oriented in the machine direction. The prior art teaches oriented films and this meets the limitation since an intermediate

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product would be uniaxially oriented and furthermore, the applicants do not preclude biaxially oriented films. While the applicant now specify a degree of orientation of 2-9 to 1 this is well within the routine skill in the art and in no way out of the normal range for the orientation of films.

19. Regarding the use of adhesive layers, the applicants use the term "adhesive layer" generically. The examiner takes the position that applicants are relying upon the common knowledge in the art since such a generic term is used. It is clear that one working in the art, even those of less than ordinary skill in the art, would be well versed in the use of adhesive layers.

Conclusion

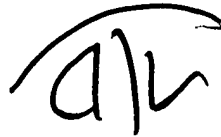
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to D. Lawrence Tarazano whose telephone number is (571)-272-1515. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM to 6:00PM (second Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carol Chaney can be reached on (571)-272-1284. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

D. Lawrence Tarazano
Primary Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DLT' with a large, sweeping arch over the letters.